

**Mental Health Oversight Advisory Council  
General Council Meeting  
November 20 and 21, 2008  
Room 103, Capitol Building, Helena, MT**

**Members Attending:** Sara Casey, Tom Camel, Joe Chalupa, Joan Daly, Jim FitzGerald, Keith Foster, Gary Hamel, Bill Hodges, Suzanne Hopkins, Andy Hunthausen, Bob Jahner, Esther Kramer, Trent Lear, Melinda Mason, Dorothy McCartney, Michelle Miller, Gary Popiel, Jo Shipman, Geri Stewart, Lou Thompson, Bridgette Winfield, Karen Ward.

Members Excused Absences: Mary Dalton, Leslie Edgcomb, Lenore Stiffarm, Patrick Wayne.

Visitors: Martha Bottelson (for Lenore Stiffarm), Leslie Carson

AMDD Staff: Marlene Disburg-Ross, Dan Ladd, Cindy Jensen, MJ Fox, Ellen Gartner, Dennis Cox, Carol Davidson.

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jim FitzGerald. Minutes of previous meeting approved: LEAR/ Hodges.

**Advanced Practice Registered Nurses:** Presented by Dr. Elizabeth Nichols – DNS, RN, FAAN, Montana State University, Bozeman.

- MSU School of Nursing applying for a grant to expand Nursing Program curriculum to include Advanced Practice Registered Nurse degree.
- Grant award could provide opportunity for nurses to get advanced training in Montana. Requires a minimum of 500 hours clinical practice.
- APRNs can support psychiatric personnel shortages in many areas of State.
- Curriculum has been established, grant will be submitted to Federal HHS for request for funding. Grant is due December, 2008.
- Prepares students for a Master Level in a two year curriculum, and prepares students for the National Exam.
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurses have prescriptive authority.
- Plan is for project to be awarded by July 1, 2009, and implemented in Fall semester. **Motion:** Trent Lear and Bill Hodges of the Workforce Development Taskforce will compose letter of support for MSU APRN Grant proposal. DALY/Kramer.
- Dr Nichols advised an Advisory Committee would be formed. A representative from MHOAC will be asked to sit on the Committee. **Motion:** Nominate Bill Hodges, Workforce Development Taskforce Chair to serve as MHOAC representative to the MSU School of Nursing Grant Advisory Committee. WARD/Daly.

**Block Grant Review Report:** Dan Ladd and Trent Lear.

- SAMHSA Block Grant Review in Phoenix, Arizona attended by Dan Ladd and Trent Lear.

- Block Grant Review Committee noted the Grant shows Montana is aware of the needs for those w/mental illnesses.
- Montana in good national standing in regards to workforce and financial stability for mental health services.
- Council requested to review BG implementation report – specifically data elements. What we try to measure should have meaning and value.
- Do Block Grant goals provide ways to enhance outcomes? Council providing quality control through Block Grant implementation.
- Block Grant review at each meeting important.

**AMDD Report:** Lou Thompson, Administrator, AMDD

- Provided documents on protocol for MHOAC interaction with Legislature.
- MHOAC part of Executive Branch – subject to same parameters as State of Montana employees. There are no ‘individual’ members of the Council.
- Testimony may be provided to Legislature as long as it is clear members are representing their personal view – not the view of the MHOAC.
- Communication process provided for under statute was reiterated.
- Anything going out to media should be passed by DPHHS Public Information Officer.
- Asked any issues not concurred on by MHOAC and Executive Branch would be accompanied by response from DPHHS prior to sending to Legislative Branch.
- Members can provide information to Legislature if asked on Council items that were decided on through agreement, i.e. Council priorities.

Budget

- Governor has released preliminary budget. Governor’s Budget is AMDD’s budget.
- Spreadsheet available for Council listing AMDD budget items.
- Present law adjustments and new proposals discussed. Two new proposals include Goal 189 (provide special funding for individuals clinically ready to be discharged but who need support to get to community services) funding and a 1% provider rate increase.
- New positions at Montana Chemical Dependency Center also requested under new proposals.
- This budget is very preliminary and could change significantly over next few months.
- AMDD is pleased with support of current services in Governor’s Budget.

Personnel Changes

- Appointment of Anna Whiting-Sorrell has Director to the Department.
- Joan Daly has been named Deputy Superintendent of Montana State Hospital and will begin January, 2009.
- Two new Community Liaison Officers have been hired for the Missoula area: Vicky Varichak and Kris Young.

- Cindy Jensen has been hired to work with the Benefits Team of Mental Health Services Bureau as clinical reviewer.

**HRD and Children's Mental Health Bureau: Bonnie Adee, Chief, CMHB**

- Governor's budget for HRD does not include significant new budget items.
- Does include funding for costs associated with required "bundling" for psychiatric residential treatment facility service reimbursement. Rules will define how implemented. Requirement is a change from current way of doing business.
- Based on a recent cost study of therapeutic group providers, room and board costs and therapeutic costs may be adjusted, resulting in increased room and board costs
- State is in second year w/PTRF Waiver which pays for community services to those qualified for Residential Treatment Care. Funding requested to support general fund match for Medicaid.
- The SOC funding request is no longer in Executive budget.
- HB66: Adds money to system of care account for high risk kids with multiagency services needs with priority to serve children 0 to age 6.
- HB 65: to grow System of Care including five new KMAs each year.
- Children's Mental Health Bureau is emphasizing "Wrap Around" services training. A planning process that 'wraps' services around children and puts a child/youth at center of process and includes informal supports as part of planning solution.
- Looking at a 'certification' for those trained and advocate that Wrap Around services be part of Medicaid service delivery.
- The Bureau is currently using grant and others sources of funding to support training process.
- Bureau has developed partnerships with NAMI – Family Support Network to train trainers in NAMI basics. Currently five communities ready to implement Family Support Network training – using parents as trainers. The goal is to have 10 communities ready to offer training in 2009.
- Bureau has applied to participate in a Policy Academy focusing on building family support infrastructure, specifically for families with young children. Expect confirmation in December.
- Bureau has contracted with In-Care Network to develop a Cultural Services Matrix – a crosswalk between western diagnoses, treatment plans and other culturally specific practices. **To Do:** Bonnie will forward website when complete
- Bureau is supporting Social Marketing initiative: TRM – The Right Mentality Right Now – Montana Youth Group promoting and supporting effective mental health and services.
- Bureau reports reduced use of out-of-state facilities – April 2008 – 40; October 2008 – 14.

**Review of Bills Recommended by 2008 Interim Committees: Lou Thompson**

- LC307 – Crisis intervention and jail diversion grant program.

- LC0516 – State contracting for local emergency detention beds pending involuntary commitment.
- LC0517 – Short-term inpatient treatment alternative to involuntary commitment.
- LC0329 – Jail suicide prevention pilot program.
- LC 592 – Managed Care Model (CCO) – 2009 Interim conduct a two-year study for feasibility of a CCO model. Would be a multi-year process. Department would have to apply for a Medicaid Waiver to support this model prior to implementation.
- LC 594 – Role of entities working with Department. Recommendation to clarify roles.
- Mental Health Study – Executive Summary and Recommendations provided to Council.

**Committee and Taskforce meetings:** Topic for discussion was to list pros and cons of bills related to work of Law and Justice Interim Committee work.

Joan Daly provided overview of bills

- LC307 – Crisis intervention and jail diversion grant program: State, county and local support – match from DPHHS to help counties do preemptive work from incarcerating people in eminent risk. Counties currently bear cost of detention in jails or Montana State Hospital. Different from 72-hour – *72-hour services is not secure*, is voluntary, and is prior to a legal detention process.
- LC0516 – State contracting for local emergency detention beds pending involuntary commitment: DPHHS will contract for three beds in each SAA for emergency detention and evaluation. Aimed at beginning to create local capacity for *secure* crisis stabilization beds.
- LC0517 – Short-term inpatient treatment alternative to involuntary commitment: comes from Oregon model. Pre-commitment process begins and if person will stay 14 days voluntary for services the legal process does not begin. Keeps legal commitment process from starting. Questions about ability to realize without building capacity to support
- LC0329 – Jail suicide prevention pilot program: provides mental health consult, screening and evaluation in jails.
- None of the bills will cover all needs for crisis stabilization services – they can begin to address the issue.

Committee/Taskforce Reports:

- Workforce Development, Bill Hodges: Group supports concept of all four pieces of legislation. Work needs to be done to providing understanding.
- Transition, Bob Jahner: Looks like development legislation in lieu of expansion of services. Legislation provides opportunity to develop models.
- Joan Daly, Crisis: Legislation can be confusing for those involved. Case scenarios might be helpful – showing stages crisis and how legislation

addresses. Legislation supports MHOAC priorities. Intentions and motivations is positive – details are more confusing and would need clarification.

- Karen Ward, Development: All four bills reflect priorities derived from the Summit.
- Gary Popiel, Advocacy: Although MHOAC has previously sent a letter to the Department regarding our priorities; we need a way to get this information back to the Legislature.
- Bottom Line interest is to get information in front of the Legislature.
- **Motion:** Chair of MHOAC draft a cover letter going to the Legislature to reaffirm priorities. Will attach earlier letter and Department's response. Letter will be approved by Executive Committee prior to distribution. LEAR/Shipman

Public Comment – none provided.

Friday, November 21, 2009

Dr. Jennifer S. Robohm, Director of the Clinical Psychology Center (CPC), Department of Psychology, University of Montana presented on the issue of Recruitment and Retention of Mental Health Professionals (presentation attached to minutes).

- Securing clinical supervision after academic course work is a real issue for psychologists.
- Field is fragmented by those who fund the service – doesn't always pay off for the client.
- Mental health field suffers w/o psychologists to provide continuum of care and expertise. Psychologists specifically trained in areas other fields are not.
- Legislature will have to be sold on value of psychologists – what does it mean if they are not one level of service provided in public mental health field.
- Consider creation of more multi-disciplinary opportunities where people see strengths of different disciplines. Opportunity to see why state needs all disciplines.
- Look for ways to fund through grants or legislative funding to support supervision support.
- Requirements for licensure, although minimal, are a course in multicultural competency.
- More review and expansion of opportunity needed for psychologists to work with primary care doctors – providing expertise for mental health care.
- Psychologists are trained to provide expert assessment and evaluations and provide clinical interventions in more complicated cases.

#### Legislative Services Division

Sue O'Connell provided the Council with a couple publications: "Making Public Policy Through Bills and Resolutions" and "Having Your Say – How to Testify Effectively Before a Legislative Committee" both documents provide good basic information for the Legislative process. Sue walked the Council through the Legislative process for introducing and passing Legislation.

Lois Steinbeck, Legislative Fiscal Analyst for AMDD. Lois provided "Understanding State Finances and The Budgeting process" to the Council as a guide to the Legislative Budget process. This document is provided to freshman Legislators. Lois noted there is always a 'balancing act' for Legislators to provide and cover all state expenditures requested by the Executive Branch. Members were encouraged to get involved early in the budget process, especially for new proposals.

Part of the Legislative budget process is to submit goals and objectives; this provides a process to develop benchmarks and targets to achieve specific Goal. Lois encouraged the Council, when budget analysis comes out, to review goals and objectives that represent what is important to the Council. Lois advised that revenue projections are down and the expectation is very limited revenue will be available for new proposals.

Steve Eller, IT Office, Legislative Services, provided the Council a hands-on demonstration on how to track legislation through the web-based LAWS system. Steve also demonstrated on how to establish a 'preference' list to track subsets of legislation and to be informed of hearings.

Service Area Authority (SAA) Reports were provided by all Western and Eastern areas. Reports can be accessed by SAA representatives if desired. It was reported all SAAs embraced MHOAC priorities. Representatives from WSAA visited ESAA and discussed service provision.

#### 2009 Meeting Dates

February 19-20  
May 14-15  
September 17-18  
November 12-13

Council provided copies of Council's June letter to Legislature and DPHHS response.

**To Do:** Invite Legislative Leaders to present to the MHOAC in February. If cannot get to attend, ask that the MHOAC Chair interview Legislative Leaders. Inform Max Baucus' Office of MHOAC meeting dates and request attendance. Potential future agenda item: Mental Health Parity. Gary Mihelish may be willing.